

## **CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF CANINES**

**9448**

(February 2002)

Canine handlers are responsible for maintaining all team records including, but not limited to expenditures, health information, training, activities, and enforcement incidents.

### **GROOMING**

**9448.1**

(February 2002)

The handler is responsible for maintaining his/her canine in a clean and healthy condition. The Department will pay all expenses to provide the necessary tools and equipment for the handler to use. The following grooming procedures for the canine shall be performed by the handler daily/weekly as needed:

- Physical inspection for fleas, ticks, foxtails, etc.
- Clean teeth as needed.
- Examine nails. If necessary, nails should be cut by removing only the tips; avoid cutting the quick. Cut along the line formed by the base of the nail. If the nail bleeds, apply styptic powder to stop the bleeding.
- Clean the ears using a moistened cotton ball. Wipe all accumulated wax and dirt from all crevices in both ears.
- Brush out the entire coat to remove any dead hair.
- Bathe with shampoo, as recommended by the veterinarian. Rinse thoroughly. Towel dry until damp.

The Department will pay all expenses for professional grooming services on a monthly basis when deemed necessary by the handler and approved by their supervisor.

### **KENNEL MAINTENANCE**

**9448.2**

(February 2002)

The handler is responsible for maintaining the canine kennel in a clean and sanitary condition. The Department will pay all expenses to provide the necessary tools and equipment for the handler to use. The following procedures for kennel maintenance shall be performed by the handler on a daily basis:

- Clean kennel (disinfect weekly).
- Furnish fresh water.
- Conduct visual inspection of kennel for any hazards that might be injurious to the canine.

## **KENNELING PROCEDURES**

**9448.3**

(February 2002)

At the end of each day, the handler shall properly secure the canine in the provided kennel. The handler shall follow this procedure when securing the canine:

- Conduct physical inspection of canine for injuries.
- Feed according to feeding schedule.
- Lock kennel gate and secure area.

## **FOOD/FEEDING OF CANINES**

**9448.4**

(February 2002)

The Department will pay all food expenses for the canine. The diet and feeding schedule will be based on the individual needs of the detection canine based upon the recommendation of the trainer. The handler shall insure that an adequate supply of food is on hand at all times. The handler shall designate the location where food orders are to be shipped.

## **VETERINARY CARE**

**9448.5**

(February 2002)

The Department will pay all expenses for emergency and routine veterinary care, including physical examinations, X-rays, surgical procedures, vaccinations, etc. It is the responsibility of the handler to ensure that his/her canine receives veterinary care and required vaccinations as necessary. Veterinary services and canine health records will be maintained on standard forms provided by the designated veterinarian.

The Region Law Enforcement Coordinator, based upon the recommendation of the individual handler, will approve the designation of a veterinarian to provide medical treatment for the Department canine. When selecting a veterinarian, the handler shall consider the following factors:

- Geographic location of the veterinarian shall be in close proximity to the handler's residence;
- Veterinarian shall be able to provide emergency medical treatment for the canine on a 24 hour, 7 day a week basis.

The handler shall be responsible for maintaining complete and accurate records of all medical treatment given to Department canines.

## **EMERGENCY FIRST AID/MEDICAL TREATMENT**

**9448.6**

(February 2002)

The Department will pay all expenses incurred by the handler while rendering emergency medical treatment to the accelerant detection canine. These expenses include, but are not limited to: transportation costs, emergency room costs, veterinarian fees, etc. Whenever possible, the handler shall make every effort to have medical treatment provided by the canine's regular veterinarian; however, primary consideration shall first be given to stabilizing the condition of the canine.

If it is necessary to use veterinarian services that are not in close proximity to the handler's residence, the Department will pay the necessary expense to relocate the canine when his medical condition has been stabilized.

Due to the nature of work performed by the accelerant detection canine, they are frequently exposed to environments that could cause injuries ranging from minor to severe. Unseen hazards on a fire scene could cause lacerations or puncture wounds; the factors of heat and high humidity could cause heat stroke; the unstable nature of the fire scene could result in fractures; or the canine may be subject to chemical or thermal burns. The handler must be able to render emergency first aid care in any situation that requires immediate action in order to prevent irreversible damage or death of the canine. The following should be considered signs that indicate an emergency situation:

- Uncontrollable bleeding;
- Extreme difficulty breathing (including choking);
- Continuous or recurrent convulsions;
- Unconsciousness;
- Heat stroke;
- Shock;
- Sudden paralysis;
- Repeated or continuous attempt to vomit, repeated unproductive vomiting and/or diarrhea.

## **FIRST AID TREATMENT FOR HEATSTROKE**

**9448.7**

(February 2002)

Due to the working environment at a fire scene, the accelerant detection canine is quite often subject to conditions that could result in heat stroke. Since the canine's cooling system involves the exchange of air, environments that have a high level of humidity (such as those of a fire scene where large quantities of water were applied to a heated atmosphere) can obstruct the canine's ability to cool down properly. The handler must be constantly alert to symptoms exhibited by the canine that may indicate the onset of heat stroke, such as:

- Panting;
- Increased pulse rate;
- Congested membranes (reddened gums);
- Anxious or staring expression;
- Collapse.

If you suspect that the canine is suffering from heat stroke, take immediate action. DO NOT MUZZLE him. Get the canine into a cool place and call the veterinarian. It is important to ACT FAST since several minutes of high body temperature can cause permanent brain damage or even death. Immediate treatment by immersion in tepid water is necessary. Wetting the canine down and letting a fan blow over him is also very helpful. Massage the skin and flex and extend the legs to return blood from the extremities. Get the canine to the veterinarian immediately.

## **TREATING OPEN WOUNDS/NO BLEEDING**

**9448.8**

(February 2002)

Open wounds that do not need control of bleeding are generally minor and can be treated in the following manner:

- Muzzle and restrain the canine.
- Clip the hair around the wound with a pair of scissors. Before you start, moisten or smear the hair with a thin film of ointment. This will make the hair stick together and to the scissors, so it will not get into the wound. As you cut, "fold" the hair away from the wound; this will also help keep the injured area clean.
- Gently cleanse the wound with plain tap water and wash the skin around the wound with antiseptic soap and water.
- Moisten a cotton-tipped applicator and use it to wipe any foreign material from the wound. Be very gentle, and do not probe deeply.
- Blot the wound dry with sterile gauze (or clean paper towels in an emergency).
- Apply antiseptic or antibiotic wound medication.
- Cover with a wound dressing and bandage, gently but firmly. Place several layers of gauze, cloth, or cotton on top of the gauze wound dressing as padding before applying the bandage.
- Replace the dressing and bandage every other day.

Call the veterinarian immediately if you have questions or if signs of infection appear.

## **TREATING OPEN WOUNDS/CONTROL BLEEDING**

**9448.9**

(February 2002)

Open wounds in canines are treated in the same manner as humans. Control of bleeding can be done in the following manner:

- Muzzle and restrain the canine.
- Using a clean gauze pad, apply pressure on one of the major pressure points.
- Maintain constant pressure on the pressure point until the bleeding is controlled. If the gauze pad becomes saturated with blood, leave it in place and apply an additional gauze pad directly on top; continue pressure.
- When bleeding is under control, cover with a wound dressing and bandage, gently but firmly, leaving the pressure pad in place.
- The veterinarian should examine the canine within 24 hours.

## **TREATMENT FOR SHOCK CONDITION**

**9448.10**

(February 2002)

There are several causes of shock. The most common cause of shock in canines results from blood loss. The following signs may indicate shock:

- Quietness and inactivity and lack of normal response to external stimuli (this condition may progress to unconsciousness);
- Rapid heart and respiratory rate;
- Rapid pulse that becomes weak and may become absent as shock progresses;
- Poor capillary refilling;
- Lowered body temperature.

If the canine shows signs of shock following an injury, wrap the canine in a towel or blanket to preserve body heat and contact the veterinarian immediately.

## **TREATMENT FOR BURNS:**

**9448.11**

(February 2002)

The severity of thermal (heat) burns in canines may be underestimated because their appearance differs considerably from those in humans. In a superficial burn to a canine, the hair remains firmly attached. If the hair is pulled in the area of the burn and it comes out easily, the burn is deeper and more serious.

Immediate treatment of thermal burns consists of applying cold water or ice compresses for twenty minutes. The affected area should then be washed with a disinfectant. Deep burns or burns covering large areas need emergency veterinary care. The veterinarian should examine any burns received by the canine within twenty-four (24) hours.

## **CANINE SAFETY**

**9448.12**

(February 2002)

It is the responsibility of the canine handler to ensure the safety of his/her canine at all times. The handler shall take action, as necessary, to prevent other animals from interfering with the canine in the performance of his duty. Such action may include, when justified, disabling or killing the other animal.

The use of the canine at a fire scene must not exceed the time limit established during the training program. In the event that the fire scene search is so extensive that the time limit would be exceeded, the handler shall take one of the following actions:

- If the handler is not part of the investigation, the canine and the handler will terminate their activities until the proper rest and care has been provided for the canine.
- If the handler is part of the investigation, the canine will be secured in an appropriate resting place while the handler continues to work the scene of the investigation.

## **ALTERNATIVE BOARD AND CARE:**

**9448.13**

(February 2002)

The Department will pay all reasonable expenses for alternative board and care for the canine whenever the handler is unable to do so. This includes, but is not limited to, time periods when the handler is on vacation, extended sick leave, authorized absence from work, or on temporary assignment away from his/her regular duty station.

When selecting an individual to provide alternative board and care, the handler shall ensure that the individual is familiar with Departmental policies and procedures regarding the care of the canine. Payment for board and care services may be made by direct billing, Purchase Order, or paid directly by the handler. If fees are paid directly by the handler, she/he shall be reimbursed for the fees upon submission of a completed [Travel Expense Claim \(STD 262\)](#) itemizing the costs as an approved business expense.

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